

"I appreciate all the hard work of the FDA and California Department of Health Services investigators. This report is a very detailed description of their investigations - however, that is all it is. We still do not have any concrete answers and it is unclear why this report is only coming out now, six months after the outbreak," said Farr.

"I appreciate that we are unlikely to ever know exactly what happened, but I hope with more investigation and research we will have a better understanding of what we can do to decrease the risk of future contaminations. I am working to ensure that fresh produce food safety research funding is increased this year so our top researchers can meet the urgent need for additional research and better science related to these kinds of outbreaks."

Farr, a member of the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee, has introduced a bill, H.R. 912, which authorizes \$26 million for food safety research specifically dedicated to fresh produce and funds emergency assistance to producers and handlers of fresh spinach who suffered losses when they voluntarily pulled uncontaminated spinach from markets in reaction to the FDA's public health advisory issued in September, 2006.

Farr's disaster assistance language was added to the FY07 Emergency Supplemental Bill, H.R. 1591, which passed the House this afternoon. Farr is working to increase food safety research funds through the regular budget process and his position on the committee which writes the annual U.S Department of Agriculture and FDA spending bill.

*Copies of the FDA investigative report are available through the California Department of Health Services web site at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/> .*